

Claims

1. A process for producing aliphatic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alcohols from high boilers, wherein the high boilers are brought to a neutralization number of up to 2 mg KOH/g by means of an alkali metal compound and are treated at a temperature of from 165 to 185°C and a pressure of from 80 to 150 hPa in a distillation column and the overhead product taken off is subsequently hydrogenated.
2. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the neutralization number is brought to a value in the range from 2 to 5 mg KOH/g by addition of an alkali metal compound.
3. The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the temperature is from 170 to 180°C.
4. The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein an aqueous solution of the alkali metal compound is used.
5. The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, wherein the alkali metal compound is an alkali metal hydroxide.
6. The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide.
7. The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6, wherein the aliphatic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alcohol is 2-ethylhexanol.
8. The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7, wherein the alkali metal compound is added to the feed to the distillation column.